

Hello,

On behalf of KmB, Pro-People Youth, a Filipino-American progressive youth organization in Southern California, we ask you to consider our attached suggested edits to Chapter 16, Lines 682-737, to align with AB 199.

The current draft is incomplete. During World War II, over 250,000 Filipinos were drafted or volunteered to join the U.S. Armed Forces in defense of the United States in the Pacific and were promised full recognition and benefits as American nationals. Immediately after the war, the Rescission Act of 1946 was passed, and the service of Filipino organized military forces was deemed unrecognized. Out of the 66 countries that allied with the United States in World War II, the Philippines is the only country to be excluded from receiving full recognition and equity.

Over the years, veterans, their families, and other community advocates have been fighting to reverse the Rescission Act. The successes we have had are small and few, such as lump sums and working visas, and often completely exclude widows and children. Time is not on our side as these elderly veterans are gradually passing away.

Getting their contributions, and the subsequent injustices, properly recorded would be one small step in gaining peace for these veterans.

Thank you,
Stephanie Sajor
Education Officer
KmB '15-'16

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